AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Please cancel claims 20 and 21, and amend claims 1-19 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A **[[**D**]]**device for separating**[[**on**]]** and discharging plasma comprising:

[[-**]]** a separation element ~~which comprises~~ comprising a first zone and a second zone, wherein ~~and~~

[[-**]]** the separation element is configured ~~arranged in the device in~~ such ~~a manner~~ that the first zone is accessible for blood application by ~~the~~ a user, and

~~wherein~~ when blood is applied to the first zone ~~of the separation element~~, plasma is passed into the second zone, ~~of the separation element~~ and corpuscular blood components are ~~essentially~~ substantially completely retained in the first zone ~~of the separation element~~; and

[[-**]]** a discharge unit configured to act ~~which~~, after plasma separation, ~~acts essentially~~ substantially on the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ without the discharge unit having an effect on the first zone ~~of the separation element~~ so that the separated plasma is released from the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ and is discharged through an outlet of the device.

2. (currently amended) The **[[**D**]]**device ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the separation element is a single-use article.

3. (currently amended) The **[[**D**]]**device ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the first zone ~~of the separation element~~ is ~~arranged~~ positioned within the device laterally next to the second zone ~~of the separation element in~~ such ~~a manner~~ that the discharge

unit acts on the second zone of the separation element ~~essentially~~ substantially perpendicular to the plane in which the separation element is located.

4. (currently amended) The **[[**D**]]**device ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ is positioned ~~mounted~~ in a movable holder within the device.

5. (currently amended) The **[[**D**]]**device ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 4, ~~in which~~ wherein the holder ~~can be preferably~~ is configured to rotate**[[**d by**]]** about 90° resulting in a detachment of the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ from the first zone.

6. (currently amended) The **[[**D**]]**device ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ is configured to detach**[[**ed**]]** from the first zone ~~of the separation element~~ and the detachment and release of plasma from the second zone occur in two consecutive steps by actuating a trigger unit on the device.

7. (currently amended) The **[[**D**]]**device ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the first zone ~~of the separation element~~ contains a separation fleece and the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ contains a transport fleece.

8. (currently amended) The **[[**D**]]**device ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ is pressed out by a plunger.

9. (currently amended) The **[[**D**]]**device ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the separation element is strip-shaped.

10. (currently amended) A **[[**S**]]**system for detecting analytes in blood comprising:

[[-**]]** a separation element configured ~~which is arranged in a device in~~ such ~~a manner~~ that a first zone of the separation element is accessible for blood application by ~~the~~ a user, **[[**-**]]** wherein when blood is applied to the first zone ~~of the separation~~

~~element blood~~ plasma is passed into the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ and the remaining blood components are ~~essentially~~ substantially completely retained in the first zone ~~of the separation element; and~~

[[-]] a discharge unit ~~which~~ configured to act, after plasma separation, ~~acts essentially~~ substantially on the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ without the discharge unit having an effect on the first zone ~~of the separation element~~ so that the separated plasma is released from the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ and is discharged through an outlet of the device**[[.]]**; **[[-]]** and

a test element that enables detection of an analyte in plasma when the separated plasma is applied.

11. (currently amended) The **[[**S**]]**system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~in which~~ wherein the structure of the test element is simplified **[[**in**]]** such ~~a manner~~ that there is no plasma separation by the test element itself.

12. (currently amended) A **[[**M**]]**method for plasma separation and discharge comprising:

[[-]] applying blood to a first zone of a separation element,

[[-]] separating plasma from other blood components by means of the separation element, the blood components being ~~essentially~~ substantially retained in the first zone ~~of the separation element~~ and the plasma being passed into a second zone of the separation element,

[[- subsequent **]]**processing **[[**of**]]** the second zone ~~of the separation element~~ without affecting the first zone ~~of the separation element~~ such that plasma is released from the second zone ~~of the separation element~~, and

[[-]] discharging**[[**e of**]]** the released plasma through an outlet.

13. (currently amended) The **[[**M**]]**method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 12~~, in which~~ further comprising detaching the second zone ~~of the separation element is detached~~ from the first zone ~~of the separation element~~.

14. (currently amended) The **[[**M**]]**method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 12~~, in which~~ further comprising eluting the separated plasma ~~is eluted~~ from the second zone ~~of the separation element~~.

15. (currently amended) The **[[**M**]]**method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 12~~, in which~~ further comprising releasing the separated plasma ~~is released by means of pressure~~ from the second zone by means of pressure ~~of the separation element~~.

16. (currently amended) The **[[**M**]]**method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 12~~, in which~~ further comprising separating the plasma by filtering ~~plasma is separated on the basis of a filtering process~~.

17. (currently amended) The **[[**M**]]**method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 16, ~~in which~~ wherein the filtering ~~process~~ is assisted by negative pressure.

18. (currently amended) The **[[**M**]]**method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 12 further comprising detecting at least one analyte in the blood ~~, which is used to determine high density lipoproteins~~.

19. (currently amended) The **[[**M**]]**method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 12, ~~in which~~ wherein the applied blood volume is between about ~~preferably~~ 30 µl ~~to~~ and about 150 µl.

20-21. (canceled)

Please add the following new claim:

22. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one analyte is high density lipoproteins.